

Remarks/Arguments

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the amendments to the abstract, amendments to the specification, the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

B. Specification

The abstract had been objected to under MPEP § 608.01(b). In line 9, the word "Figure" should be deleted.

The abstract has been amended to remove the word "Figure."

C. Claim Status and Comments

Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to further describe the structure of the sealing washer of the presently claimed invention. Claim 2 has been amended merely for formatting purposes. Claim 8 has been added to define the traction mechanism. Details of the amendments to claim 1 will be discussed below.

D. Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. & 112

Claims 1-7 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the limitation "the lateral surface" in

line 2 of claim 1 lacks antecedent basis. Also, the Examiner stated that the phrase “in particular” in line 3 of claim 1 renders the claim indefinite.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the limitation the lateral surface and the phrase “in particular” has been removed from claim 1.

E. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singer (DE 100 43 840) in view of Kniepkamp, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 2,999,707) (hereinafter Kniepkamp).

Claim 1 has been amended to further describe and define the recess and the guide collar. The Examiner acknowledged that Singer does not disclose a recess on the guidance federation (13), an elastic holding element inserted in the recess such that the elastic holding element bears against the holding bore of the inner ring (7) under preload and turned to Kniepkamp. The Examiner stated that Kniepkamp teaches a plug (1) held against an inner bore of a casing (5).

Kniepkamp does not disclose a guide collar with a recess as disclosed in the presently claimed invention. Unlike the presently claimed invention, Kniepkamp does not disclose a guide collar with a recess that is defined by a first wall, a second wall, and a third wall with the first wall, which is shorter than the third wall, and the third wall being parallel to each other and the second wall being perpendicular and to the first wall. The head (9) of the plug (1) of Kniepkamp has a concave taper (11) in which the o-ring (12) sits. Unlike Kniepkamp which discloses a concave taper, the recess of the presently

claimed invention has three walls that are adjoined at right angles. Thus, the recess of the presently claimed invention is structurally distinguishable from the taper of Kniepkamp.

Therefore, the presently claimed invention is distinguishable from and patentable over Singer in view of Kniepkamp.

Claims 2-8 are dependent upon claim 1, which as discussed above, is patentable over Singer in view of Kniepkamp. Since claim 1 is patentable over Singer in view of Kniepkamp, claims 2-8 are also patentable over Singer in view of Kniepkamp.

F. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account Number 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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